

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-15 (Previously canceled).

16. (Previously amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.

17. (Previously canceled).

18. (Previously amended) An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (Previously amended) An isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 2 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (Currently amended). An isolated polypeptide having the an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 21-1039 of SEQ ID NO:552.

Claims 21-24 (Previously canceled).

25. (Previously amended) A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% identity <sup>with</sup> SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Claims 26-32 (Previously canceled).

33. (Previously canceled).

34. (Previously amended). A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 2 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO:2.

35. (Currently amended). A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 21-1039 of SEQ ID NO:552.

Claims 36, 37 and 38 (Previously canceled).

39. (Previously added). The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the individual is a human, a mouse or a rat.

40. (Previously added). The vaccine composition of claim 25, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of Freund's complete adjuvant, Freund's incomplete adjuvant,  $AlK(SO_4)_2$ ,  $AlNa(SO_4)_2$ ,  $AlNH_4(SO_4)_2$ , silica, kaolin, carbon polynucleotides, QuilA and Alhydrogel.

41. (Previously amended). The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, said polypeptide having at least a 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

42. (Previously added). The vaccine composition of claim 25, said polypeptide having at least a 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.